

**ABSTRACT**

Improved polymers for use in dental restoratives are provided, as well as dental restoratives made with these improved polymers. The polymers of the present invention are made from at least one carboxylic acid-containing monomer and at least one vinyl amide monomer, and have molecular weights in the range from about 10,000 to about 100,000. In one embodiment, the polymer is made from two different acid monomers and one vinyl amide monomer. The present invention also provides for carboxylic acid and amine-containing polymers that are made visible light curable through the addition of a pendant vinyl-containing group. The invention also relates to methods of making the improved polymers and methods of making dental restoratives with the improved polymers. The invention also relates to kits for making dental restoratives comprising the carboxylic acid and amine-containing polymers of the present invention and an inorganic glass which are blended to form the dental restorative.